

Appl. No. 10/536,977

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT dated December 12, 2008
Reply to Office Action of September 12, 2008

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

The Applicants respond to the restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. §§ 121 and 372 of the Office Action of September 12, 2008.

Claims 1 through 51 are pending in the application and deleted by this response.

Claims 52 through 76 are added. No new claim fee is due.

A request for a two-month extension of time with a check for the official fee of \$490 accompanies this response. If the amount of the check is incorrect, please charge or credit Deposit Account Number 12-1210.

The Examiner applied a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121 and 372, and divided the claims into two groups. The Applicants elect with traverse the claims of Group I, which are claims 1 through 39 drawn to a tap adapter having a hollow arm.

The Applicants have a bona fide belief that the election requirement should be withdrawn. The tap adapter of Group I is rendered more desirable by the additional structures of subsequent claims. However, it is maintained that a search of the invention of Group I would necessarily include the desirable embodiments of subsequent claims. Reconsideration is requested.

The Applicants present a new set of claims that fulfills the unity requirements expressed by the Examiner. New claim 52 is based upon original claim 14 of Group I.

New claim 52 corresponds to claim 14 as originally filed. However, the wording "characterized in that said hollow arm is separable to receive an interchangeable dispensing tube being tubular cartridge for interconnecting the tap with the first valve and through

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which the beverage is dispensed" has been added. The distinguishing feature is supported, for example, by original claims 21 and 32.

New claim 53 corresponds to original claim 26.

New claim 54 corresponds to original claim 27.

New claim 55 corresponds to original claim 28.

New claims 56 and 57, respectively, correspond to original claims 15 and 16.

New claim 58 corresponds to original claim 17.

New claims 59 to 65 correspond to original claims 19 to 25.

New claims 66, 67, and 68, respectively, correspond to original claims 37, 38, and 39.

New claims 69 to 75, respectively, correspond to original claims 45 to 51 but are now dependent on new claim 52.

New claim 76 is based upon original claims 1 to 13.

Favorable consideration is requested.

12 Dec 08

Date



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